

Reply to Office Action dated September 15, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A hook assembly ~~of for~~ a door ~~in of~~ a washing machine, comprising:

a pair of supporters configured to directly extending extend from an inside of a doorframe of ~~the a~~ washing machine;

a shaft ~~penetrating~~ configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;

a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft wherein and having a head of the shaft penetrates configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed; and

an elastic member ~~provided in the doorframe~~ configured to give an elastic force to the hook, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames, and wherein the pair of supporters extend from either the inner frame or the outer frame.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising stoppers ~~extended~~ configured to extend from the an inside of the doorframe ~~to and~~ prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters.

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5. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.

6. (Original) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than the length of the shaft.

7. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein the door frame comprises separable inner and outer frames and~~ wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

8. (Original) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the other side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

9. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

10. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.

11. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:
- a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
 - a tub in the cabinet;
 - a ~~run-drum~~ rotatably provided in the tub; and
 - a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
 - a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet;
 - a pair of supportors configured to directly extending extend from an inside of the doorframe;
 - a shaft ~~penetrating~~ configured to penetrate the ~~pair of supportors~~;
 - a hook configured to rotatably coupled to the shaft wherein and having a head of the shaft ~~penetrates~~ configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed; and
 - an elastic member provided in the doorframe configured to give an elastic force to the hook, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames, and wherein the pair of supportors extend from either the inner frame or the outer frame.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 11, further comprising stoppers ~~extending~~ configured to extend from the an inside of the doorframe to and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supportors.

15. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.

16. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than a length of the shaft.

17. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, ~~wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames and~~ wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

18. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the outer side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

19. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 11, further comprising a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

20. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.

21. (New) A washing machine, comprising:
- a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
 - a tub in the cabinet;
 - a drum rotatably provided in the tub; and
 - a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
 - a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet
 - a pair of supporters configured to directly extend from an inside of a doorframe of a washing machine;
 - a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;
 - a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed;
 - an elastic member configured to give an elastic force to the hook; and
 - stoppers configured to extend from an inside of the doorframe and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters.
22. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.
23. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 22, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than a length of the shaft.

24. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames and wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

25. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the outer side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

26. (New) A washing machine, comprising:

- a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
- a tub in the cabinet;
- a drum rotatably provided in the tub; and
- a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
 - a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet
 - a pair of supportors configured to directly extend from an inside of a doorframe of a washing machine;
 - a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supportors;
 - a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed;
 - an elastic member configured to give an elastic force to the hook; and

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a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

27. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.